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agencies employed in procurement and distribution, the Government have to increase the price of the foodgrains, but that is inevitable, because in the interests of the Province as a whole, rationing has to be kept up.''

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—'' May I know, Sir, whether the Government are meeting this extra expenditure themselves, or whether it is passed on to the consumers? ''

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—'' At present it is passed on to the consumer, Sir.''

JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—'' Is it not a fact, Sir, that previously the Government were meeting such expenditure themselves, without passing it on to the consumer? ''

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—'' Previously also the Government were incurring such expenditure and passing it on to the consumer.''

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY.

MR. PRESIDENT :—'' I have to announce to the House the following messages received from the Hon. the Speaker of the Madras Legislative Assembly :—

'(1) In accordance with rule 94 of the Madras Assembly Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Maintenance of Public Order Bill, 1949 (L A. Bill No. 24 of 1949), as passed by the Assembly on the 10th November 1949, and signed by me for the concurrence of the Council.

'(2) In accordance with rule 94 of the Madras Assembly Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Bill, 1949, (L.A. Bill No. 25 of 1949,), as passed by the Assembly on the 12th November 1949, and signed by me for the concurrence of the Council.''

III.—PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY THE HON. PRESIDENT.

I have to announce to the House that under rule 9 of the Madras Council Rules, I have nominated the following four members of the Council to be the panel of Chairman for the Eleventh Session of the Council:—

(1) Sri S. Jayaram Reddi.
(2) Mrs. M. N. Clubwala.
(3) Dr. Syed Tajuddin.
(4) Sri R. Ramakrishna Naidu.

IV.—GOVERNMENT MOTIONS.

(1) HOUSE COMMITTEE.

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—'' Mr. President, Sir, I move—

'*that under rule* 143 *of the Madras Council Rules, the House do proceed to elect six members to the House Committee according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote in accordance with the regulations made in this behalf by the President.*' ''

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11-45 a.m. MR. PRESIDENT :—" Before taking up the motion, I have to announce to the House that the hon. Member, Mr. Farookhi Sahib has given notice of an adjournment motion in these words, namely :—

' I crave your consent for moving the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the failure of the Government to check the unending increase in the cost of living in the Province.'

I am of the opinion that it is not a matter of urgent importance, because it has been continuing for a long time, and is also likely to continue for a long time to come. I told the hon. Member that I have not given my consent. But he wanted publicity for his motion. That is why I inform the House and make it public that I am not giving my consent to the motion. (Laughter).

The question is—

' that under rule 143 of the Madras Council Rules, the House do proceed to elect six members to the House Committee according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote in accordance with the regulations made in this behalf by the President.' "

SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI :—" May I know the usefulness of this Committee, Sir? "

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" I want to know whether it will not be nice to establish a convention that in electing hon. Members to the House Committee, the turn goes round to the members of the Government and the Opposition? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I do not follow the hon. Member."

SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI :—" Sir, is there any useful purpose served by this committee. No doubt I was also one of the Members of the Committee."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I may inform the hon. Member that it is no use putting questions. The hon. Member was himself a Member of the Committee. He may inform the House what the Committee did."

SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI :—" I have given some suggestions to the Government, but they have not carried them out."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" It is your mistake if the Government did not carry out. If any suggestions have not been carried out, you may bring it to the notice of the House."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" I do not think, Sir, any purpose is served by constituting a committee for each session. First of all, we do not know what functions our representatives can discharge by being members of this committee."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I may inform hon. Members that it is not open to the House to consider whether a committee is to

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be appointed or not, because under the rules we are bound to appoint a committee. The rule says that the House *shall* appoint a committee. If you are not prepared to appoint, you may not send in your nomination. That is all.''

* Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—'' I know it is obligatory, Sir, and we have to appoint a committee under the rules. But, may I point out with what scant courtesy this House has been treated by the Government? Members of this House have no place to sit or lounge. We are supposed to belong to the group known as the Opposition. In all Houses of Parliament some provision is made however imperfect it may be for the Members of the Legislature to gather, to discuss, and to promote social relations amongst them. There is no place here. We meet for the first time and the last time at the end of each session in the House and disperse. I do not think the Government cannot find room. They simply go on increasing their officers. The next room was vacant. Immediately some files came and the room was filled up. I do not know whether the office of the Legislature were vigilant. Perhaps they have to use some force and take possession of buildings as soon as they become vacant; otherwise the Chief Secretary seems to lay (I am almost tempted to say) his violent hands on wherever there is space in the Secretariat. It is a disgrace that the hon. Members of this House should have no place to sit except in the Chamber. Suppose we meet tomorrow at 2-30 p.m., some members may come at 2 o'clock. They must then go into the library, which is a dungeon. There is not enough ventilation, and there is no light. It is not worthy of any legislature. The library is housed in such a place. If we members of the opposition want to discuss and come to a decision, we have to go all the way to ' Dadnor ', Nungambakkam High Road. There is no place for us to meet anywhere here and discuss. Nor can we have any scope, as Members of the Legislature, to have certain books for reference. Why then is this House Committee? Is it only to see whether two spoons of sugar are given or one spoon of sugar is given for coffee? Is this the purpose of the House Committee?''

Mr. PRESIDENT :—'' Are you sure of even that? ''

* Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—'' Therefore, Sir, you, as the custodian of the rights of the House should impress on Government to treat us in the manner that we deserve to be treated. If some rooms are constructed in the upstairs, immediately some department of Government occupies it. Some sections are created. One section becomes A and the other—B section—is put up in another room. That is what is happening. It is like the conquest of the East India Company; getting a foothold and then occupying all places where there is room. I would like you to impress on Government to give us due consideration. We do not want any extra consideration. We want only that consideration due to the Members of this House.''

Mr. PRESIDENT :—'' I think the day is fast approaching when we will have more accommodation.'' (Laughter.)

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Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Till then, will our grievances remain unredressed? "

Mr. PRESIDENT :—" Has the President of the House Committee anything to say on the matter? "

Sri K. VENKATASWAMI NAIDU :—" Mr. President, Sir, the requests of hon. Members have been placed before the Government. In view of the Andhra Province question hanging in the air, and in view of the fact that more accommodation cannot be provided till that matter is settled, this matter was pending consideration by Government. These requests were already placed before the Government, and the Government were not able to do anything more."

Mr. PRESIDENT :—" I do not quite follow the hon. Member. Do the Government say that in view of the Andhra Province coming in, no room should be given to the hon. Members? "

Sri K. VENKATASWAMI NAIDU :—" More room will be available by then. That is what we were made to understand. (Laughter.) The rooms in the downstairs were formerly allotted to the Legislature Department, but the Secretariat have taken those rooms and they are unable to give them back to us in spite of various requests by the Legislature Department. I hope the Government will take early steps to see that these rooms are given back to the Legislature. Then we can allot more rooms for the various sections of the House."

Mr. PRESIDENT :—" That is a different matter. As President of the House Committee, are you satisfied that the Government are not in the wrong? "

* Dr. V. K. JOHN :—" Sir, under rule 143 there shall be appointed at the commencement of each session a House Committee to consider and advise upon all matters connected with the comfort and convenience of members of the Council. The House is satisfied that no useful purpose is served in electing a House Committee. The House Committee cannot do anything at all for the comfort and convenience of the Members of the Council for the only reason that the Government do not care to attend to their comfort and convenience or to accept any recommendation. It is open to this Council to say that we do not appoint a committee. Because, after all, the House must have self-respect; we have asked for rooms and they are not given."

Mr. PRESIDENT :—" May I ask you about the force of the word ' shall ' in rule 143? "

Dr. V. K. JOHN :—" Sir, this House could say ' we do not want a House Committee.' After the Hon. Sri P. Kumaraswami Raja became Premier, we expected that he at least would attend to the convenience and comforts of the Members, and give us a room. But he also has not been kind enough to accept the request of the House Committee. There is no compulsion in the matter; it is open to the House to say ' we do not want to elect

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this House Committee as it serves no useful purpose.' Therefore, I suggest, Sir, that this House comes to the conclusion that no useful purpose is served by electing a House Committee as its recommendations are not accepted by the Government and are always rejected by them."

MRS. MONA HENSMAN :—" Sir, I beg to differ from the previous speakers. The House Committee has done useful work. We have got more accommodation now. The House Committee is doing useful work."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" There are only two lady Members in this House."

MRS. MONA HENSMAN :—" Members' requests have been conceded by Government, and we have been able to get more accommodation."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The rule simply says that there shall be appointed a House Committee according to the principles of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. I do not know if a motion is necessary for this purpose. Any way the motion is before the House."

JANAB K. UPPI :—" Sir, do the quarters in the Government House Estate, Mount Road, come under the management of this House Committee? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" That is a different committee. Have the Government to say anything in the matter? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I do not know whether this discussion has any meaning. There is the statutory obligation to elect a House Committee, and I, therefore, move that the House Committee be elected. It does not lie with the Members to say that the House Committee shall not be elected when it is laid down that it shall be elected. Therefore, there is no question whether this House Committee should be formed or not. As regards the question of comforts and convenience to Members, we have the evidence of the hon. lady Member that the House Committee has been functioning very well, and that it can do much more. I should like to ask hon. Members why they should forego the privilege of having a House Committee. In fact, I do maintain that it is a privilege to have a House Committee, which we should not throw away."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The complaint is that you are not providing sufficient accommodation for hon. Members, and there is no privacy."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" There is the possibility that the House and the Legislature may be enlarged in the near future. When that contingency comes, all these complaints will automatically disappear."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" With reference to the statement made that the House Committee has 12 noon.

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nothing to do with the hostel, I find from the statement showing the resolutions passed by the House Committee during the ninth session of the Council, which has been placed on the table of the House, that almost every resolution refers to the hostel.''

SRI K. VENKATASWAMI NAIDU :—'' The Government have constituted a separate Advisory Committee for the hostel. Before the constitution of this Committee, the House Committee was in charge of the arrangements in the hostel and it did very useful work. Now the Advisory Committee has taken up the work and the House Committee has nothing to do with it.''

MR. PRESIDENT :—'' My own view is that the House Committee is supposed to arrange for the convenience of Members inside the premises and that is why it is called a House Committee. Perhaps it might have looked after the hostel work before the formation of a separate Advisory Committee for the hostel. As a matter of fact, the hostel is not within the purview of the House Committee.''

DR. V. K. JOHN :—'' In view of the discussion, may I have an assurance from the Government that they will provide sufficient accommodation for the Members? ''

MR. PRESIDENT :—'' I myself have been feeling that there is no sufficient accommodation for the hon. Members. I have been obliging a number of them by allowing them to sit in my room. I think it is necessary that some place must be set apart where the Members can relax and spend their time when there is no work in the House. This deserves the serious attention of the Government.''

The motion was put and carried.

MR. PRESIDENT :—'' I have to inform the House that, in accordance with the regulations framed by me under rule 143 of the Madras Council Rules for the holding of elections according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, I fix 3 p.m. on Wednesday, the 16th November 1949, as the time within which nomination of candidates for election to the House Committee should reach the Secretary. There will be an election on a date to be announced in due course if the number of candidates nominated exceeds six.''.

(2) ELECTION OF ONE MEMBER TO THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' Mr. President, Sir, I move—

'*that as the term of the Local Advisory Committee of the South Indian Railway has expired on the 31st October 1949 and the committee has to be reconstituted in November 1949, and as the General Manager, South Indian Railway, has requested the Government to communicate to him the names of the members to represent the Madras*